

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1     1.       (Currently Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a pub-  
2     lic switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:  
3             a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which over-  
4     lays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically lo-  
5     cated so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic  
6     normally carried by the PSTN between two or more central offices, tandem switches or  
7     other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC).
  
- 1     2.       (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein one or  
2     more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central  
3     offices, tandem switches or other premises.
  
- 1     3.       (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2     ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of said central of-  
3     fices, tandem switches or other premises, and said microwave network provides wireless  
4     bandwidth as an alternative communication path.
  
- 1     4.       (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2     wireless IOF provides redundancy to said public switched telephone network.
  
- 1     5.       (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2     wireless IOF provides bandwidth at a lower cost than said public switched telephone  
3     network.
  
- 1     6.       (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 1 wherein said  
2     wireless IOF provides service which is complementary to that provided by said public  
3     switched telephone network.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave  
2 network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 (1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers,  
5 said microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;

6 (2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless interof-  
7 fice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by the PSTN between  
8 two or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an incum-  
9 bent local exchange carrier (ILEC).

1 8. (Currently Amended) A microwave communication network that overlays a pub-  
2 lic switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising:

3 a plurality of microwave transceivers forming a microwave network which over-  
4 lays said public switched telephone network, said transceivers being geographically lo-  
5 cated so as to provide a wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic  
6 normally carried by the PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem switches or  
7 other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or  
8 more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier  
9 other than said ILEC.

1 9. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein one or  
2 more of said microwave transceivers is located proximate to one or more of said central  
3 offices, tandem switches or other premises.

1 10. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 ILEC provides insufficient wireline bandwidth between two or more of its central offices,  
3 tandem switches or other premises, and said microwave network provides wireless band-  
4 width as an alternative communication path.

1 11. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides redundancy to said public switched telephone network.

1 12. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides bandwidth at a lower cost than said public switched telephone  
3 network.

1 13. (Original) The microwave communication network as in claim 8 wherein said  
2 wireless IOF provides service which is complementary to that provided by said public  
3 switched telephone network.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of providing wireless bandwidth in a microwave network which overlays a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the steps of:

(1) forming a microwave network from a plurality of microwave transceivers, said microwave network overlaying said public switched telephone network;

(2) geographically arranging said transceivers so as to provide wireless interoffice facility (IOF) for carrying all types of traffic normally carried by the PSTN between one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) and one or more central offices, tandem switches or other premises controlled by a common carrier other than said ILEC.